



# Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia

## Why in News

The Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia on his birth anniversary (23<sup>rd</sup> March).

## Key Points

- **Birth:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1910 in Akbarpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Brief Profile:** [//](#)



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The Vision

- Indian politician and activist who was a prominent figure in socialist politics and in the movement towards Indian independence.
- Much of his career was devoted to combating injustice through the development of a distinctly Indian version of socialism.
  - **Socialism** refers to a set of political ideas that emerged as a response to the inequalities present in, and reproduced by, the industrial capitalist economy.

### ▪ Lohia's Idea of Socialism:

- Lohia **identified five kinds of inequalities** that need to be fought against simultaneously:
  - Inequality between **man and woman**,
  - Inequality based on **skin colour**,
  - **Caste-based** inequality,
  - **Colonial rule** of some countries over others, and
  - **Economic** inequality.
- For him struggle against these five inequalities constituted five **revolutions**. He added two more revolutions to this list:
  - **Revolution** for civil liberties against unjust encroachments on private life and
  - **Revolution** for non-violence, for renunciation of weapons in favour of Satyagraha.
- These were the **seven revolutions or Sapta Kranti** which for Lohia was the ideal of socialism.

▪ **Education:**

- **Bachelor's degree (1929)** from the **University of Calcutta** and a **doctorate (1932)** from the **University of Berlin**, where he studied economics and politics.

▪ **Pre-Independence Role:**

- In 1934, he became actively involved in the **Congress Socialist Party (CSP)**, founded that year as a left-wing group within the Indian National Congress.
- A vehement **opponent of Indian participation on the side of Great Britain in World War II (1939-45)**, he was arrested for anti-British remarks in 1939 and again in 1940.
- With the emergence in **1942 of the Quit India movement**—a campaign initiated by **Mahatma Gandhi** to urge the withdrawal of British authorities from India—Lohia and other CSP leaders (such as **Jaya Prakash Narayan**) mobilized support from the underground. For such resistance activities, he was jailed again in 1944–46.

▪ **Post-Independence Role:**

- Lohia and other CSP members left the Congress in **1948**.
- He became a member of the **Praja Socialist Party** upon its formation in **1952** and served as general secretary for a brief period, but internal conflicts led to his **resignation in 1955**.
- He established a **new Socialist Party (1955)**, for which he became chairman as well as the editor of its journal, **Mankind**.
  - He advocated for various socio-political reforms in his capacity as party leader, including the **abolition of the caste system**, stronger protection of civil liberties, etc.
- **In 1963**, Lohia was elected to the **Lok Sabha**, where he was noted for his sharp criticism of government policies.
- Some of **his works** include: 'Wheel of History', 'Marx, Gandhi and Socialism', 'Guilty Men of India's Partition', etc.
- **Death:** 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1967.

**Source: PIB**

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